

REPORT

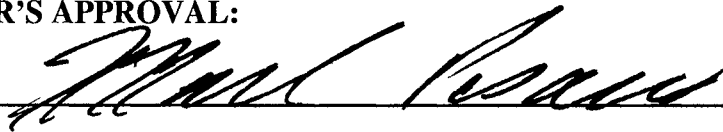
DATE: January 13, 2005

TO: Transportation & Communications Committee

FROM: Naresh Amatya, Lead Regional Planner, Planning and Policy
213-236-1885; amatya@scag.ca.gov

RE: Preliminary Schedule for the next RTP Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize staff to move forward with the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (2007 RTP) Update based on the general timeline provided below and direct staff to report back on potential need for an interim amendment of the 2004 RTP.

SUMMARY:

Regional Council adopted the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) on April 1, 2004. Both federal (Title 23, CFR Sec.450.322) and state (Government Code 65080(c)) law requires that the RTP be update at least once every three years in federally designated non-attainment and maintenance areas for air quality such as our region. Accordingly, the current RTP must be updated and adopted by the Regional Council by no later than April of 2007. This memo outlines the timeline and key milestones that must be met to accomplish this.

BACKGROUND:

Regional Council adopted the 2004 RTP on April 1, 2004. Transportation Conformity on the 2004 RTP was approved by the federal agencies on June 7, 2004 for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), the Imperial County and Coachella Valley portions of Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), and the San Bernardino portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). Conformity for the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin and the South Desert Modified 1-Hour Ozone Area was approved on June 16, 2004. Both federal (Title 23, CFR Sec.450.322) and state (Government Code 65080(c)) law requires that the RTP be update at least once every three years in federally designated non-attainment and maintenance areas for air quality such as our region. This would require the current RTP be updated and adopted by the Regional Council by no later than April of 2007.

Since the adoption of the 2004 RTP in April 2004, a number of events that may influence the next plan update have occurred and some are unfolding as this memo is being prepared. First, on the positive side, voters of San Bernardino county overwhelmingly

Since the adoption of the 2004 RTP in April 2004, a number of events that may influence the next plan update have occurred and some are unfolding as this memo is being prepared. First, on the positive side, voters of San Bernardino county overwhelmingly approved Measure I in San Bernardino county, which extends the half cent sales tax. This was included in the 2004 RTP as an initiative for additional funding. On the other hand, Los Angeles county initiative to add another half cent sales tax in LA County, which was also included in the 2004 RTP, was not moved forward.

At the state level, recently unveiled budget proposal by the governor spells disaster for the near term transportation improvements. The proposed budget would specifically divert the Prop. 42 revenue again in the next fiscal year. Revenue from the Indian Gaming initiative has not materialized in the current fiscal year as anticipated and the revenue outlook for next fiscal year has been scaled back drastically. Full impact of these cuts to our transportation plans and programs may not be known until state releases their fund estimates for the next STIP funding round in spring.

Yet another event that may warrant re-visiting 2004 RTP sooner is the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) board action on the Center Line project. The 2004 RTP allocates over \$1 billion to ensure the project is complete and operational by 2030. Should the OCTA board action result in elimination or substantial change to this project, a comparable substitution would be required which could also lead potentially to an earlier amendment of the 2004 RTP.

Given these uncertainties, it is still pre-mature to develop a timeline for an interim amendment, should one be necessary. However, the triennial update of the plan is a regulatory requirement for our region as pointed out above. The following highlights the general timeline and major milestones to accomplish Regional Council adoption of the next RTP no later than April of 2007.

- Dec. 2005 – Review and update overall goals, objectives, policies, planning assumptions, performance measures etc. Establish Base-Year performance condition and baseline revenue forecast
- April 2006- Establish Baseline performance condition and complete needs assessment, including identification of system deficiencies, bottlenecks etc.
- July 2006 – Complete Scenario development/planning, including growth, capital improvement and environmental scenarios. Also, complete development of funding scenarios and analysis of range of costs associated with each alternative
- Oct. 2006 – Complete evaluation of scenarios leading to a preferred scenario to be released as the Draft 2007 RTP for public review and comments
- Dec. 2006 – Release Draft PEIR for public review and comments
- March 2007 – Complete Interagency coordination/consultation. Also complete response to comments and necessary adjustments to the Draft 2007 RTP per comments and input received.
- April 2007 – RC adopt 2007 RTP and approve the PEIR

- June 2007 – Conformity approval on the 2007 RTP

Public outreach would occur throughout the process on a continuous and on-going basis. The recommendation at this point is to allow staff to move forward with the 2007 RTP Update process based on the general timeline identified above and direct staff to return to TCC in the near future with assessment of potential interim amendment of the 2004 RTP.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact. The budget for this work is already included in the current Overall Work Program (OWP).